



WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report May 2006

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WSDOT Breaks Biennium Record for Airport Aid Grants

During its second round of grants in the 2005-2007 biennium, WSDOT Aviation's Airport Aid Grant Program has facilitated \$13.3 million for 39 different airport improvement projects statewide.

This latest round of grants, coupled with \$1.2 million given in July 2005, is the largest amount of grants awarded by WSDOT during a biennium. The Legislature supported this effort by approving WSDOT's \$1.5 million supplemental budget request. WSDOT's grant program is funded through an 11-cent-per gallon fee on aviation fuel, along with aircraft registration fees. If remaining funds are available, WSDOT may award a third round of grants in early 2007.

"The Legislature and state aviation users have helped to make this a record-breaking biennium for our Local Airport Aid Grant Program," said WSDOT Manager of Aviation Operations, Stan Allison. "We will return the favor by delivering quality projects that focus on pavement to improve the health of our state's system of airports."

WSDOT announced Tuesday that a total of 31 public-use airports in Washington will benefit from the latest round of state, local and federal grant. WSDOT used approximately \$1.8 million in state grants to fund the projects. Of that total amount, WSDOT used \$288,432 to leverage more than \$10.8 million in federal funds.

"We are committed to preserving the state's aviation system by stretching our state grant funds to the maximum extent," said Allison. "We continue to encourage eligible airports to accept federal funds first. This allows us to leverage millions of federal dollars for important airport improvement projects, while focusing more of our state grants on smaller airports that are not eligible for federal money."

Airport improvement projects slated for the 2005-2007 biennium are in the areas of pavement, safety, planning, maintenance, security and runway safety. Pavement maintenance, which is the main focus of WSDOT's grant program, comprises about 78 percent of the planned projects. Forty-two percent of WSDOT funds have enabled those paving projects, with 64 percent going to smaller airports that are not eligible for federal funding.

[Learn more about WSDOT's Airport Aid Grant Program.](#)

Aviation Director Speaks About Airport Land Use Compatibility Program at National Planning Conference

John Sibold, WSDOT Aviation Director, traveled to Texas in April to give a talk on the department's Airport Land Use Compatibility Program at the American Planning Association (APA) conference. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) invited Sibold to speak at the conference as part of a panel on collaboration in airport land use planning. Approximately 100 land use and transportation planners attended the session.

Sibold's talk focused on WSDOT's technical assistance program. WSDOT Aviation works one-on-one with cities and counties to help them adopt comprehensive plan goals and policies to protect public-use airports from encroachment. The program emphasizes collaboration between airport sponsors and local planning staff, and supports creative, proactive approaches to discouraging incompatible development. Sibold also informed the group of WSDOT Aviation's plans to update its program materials and guidelines. The new document will be released in summer 2007.

Okanogan County's Comprehensive Plan Update to Address Dorothy Scott Airport

Okanogan County has requested technical assistance from WSDOT Aviation to address airport land use compatibility in its plan for the Upper Valley Planning Area, which includes the City of Oroville and the northeastern portion of the county. Dorothy Scott Airport in Oroville is included in the planning area.

Okanogan County recently released a draft of its *Upper Valley Goals and Policies*, the first in a series of planning efforts scheduled as part of an update to the county's 1964 comprehensive plan. The draft includes policies that support industrial development and call for adoption of development regulations to prevent the siting of incompatible land uses adjacent to the airport.

WSDOT Aviation is working with the county to provide additional information to assist them in developing regulations and address other airports in the county.

The timing of the county's draft document coincides with the City of Oroville's Airport Layout Plan for Dorothy Scott Airport. The ALP project is funded by a grant from the FAA and WSDOT Aviation. The ALP process identified the need to address airport land

use compatibility adjacent to the airport. WSDOT Aviation has offered its technical assistance to help the county and City of Oroville address land use compatibility adjacent to Dorothy Scott Airport.

WSDOT Aviation Encourages Pierce County to Address Land Use Compatibility at Shady Acres

WSDOT Aviation provided comment on Pierce County's draft *Graham Community Plan* this week, requesting that the county address airport land use compatibility adjacent to Shady Acres Airport. The draft plan includes policies and regulations for nearby Thun Field, but postpones work on Shady Acres until the next plan update.

The Pierce County Comprehensive Plan includes policies and regulations to address airport land use compatibility at Tacoma Narrows and Thun Field. The plan does not address the county's other public-use airports, but indicates that that work will be completed as part of the county's individual community plans. The recently released draft for the Graham area is one of these plans. To be consistent with the county plan, the community plan must adopt policies and regulations to protect Shady Acres from encroachment. WSDOT Aviation has offered technical assistance as the county begins the process.